

MASSACHUSETTS SAFE COMMUNITIES COALITION

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SUPPORT SAFE COMMUNITIES

S.1305 and H.3269

Sponsored by Sen. Jamie Eldridge and Rep. Juana Matias

Massachusetts leadership has always shaped the nation's consciousness on civil rights, from abolishing slavery to marriage equality. Today, we need to show that kind of courage on behalf of immigrants and Muslims in our communities. We must send a strong message to immigrant communities and the federal government that Massachusetts will stand up for everyone who lives and works here, no matter where we come from.

The Safe Communities Act will protect the civil rights and safety of *all* state residents by ensuring that our tax dollars aren't used to deport our neighbors and separate families.

KEY FEATURES OF THE SAFE COMMUNITIES ACT

1. **Ends police participation in civil immigration enforcement**, including investigations, arrests or detentions based solely on immigration status.
2. **Protects public safety and public health.** When police actively assist the Trump administration's deportation agenda, immigrants and their families become afraid to report crimes, assist investigations, or use basic public services such as 911, court protection and healthcare.
3. **Allows police to focus on fighting crime.** Police involvement in civil immigration enforcement not only erodes public trust – it's also a major distraction. This bill lets police focus on their jobs, but in no way interferes with the ability to investigate, arrest and prosecute criminals. Police can still work with Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) and other federal agencies on any *criminal* matter.
4. **Prohibits "287(g)" agreements** that deputize law enforcement personnel as ICE agents. The Trump administration is actively promoting this extreme form of local entanglement with ICE, hijacking state resources to deport immigrants. The Bristol, Plymouth and Barnstable County sheriffs have already signed on. These deals are costly, encourage racial profiling, and create needless legal liabilities.
5. **Ensures basic due process** for immigrants held in our state and local facilities. It requires informing detainees – in a language they understand – that they have the right to decline an interview with ICE agents, and to have an attorney present (at their own expense) if they so choose. This puts citizens and non-citizens on equal footing, protecting basic civil rights.
6. **Prohibits state support for any Muslim registry.** Prohibits law enforcement agencies and the Registry of Motor Vehicles from sharing databases or records to create a federal registry program based on national origin, religion or any other protected characteristic.
7. **Conforms to federal law.** The bill contains several provisions ensuring compliance with federal law. It only prohibits purely voluntary activities. Every federal effort to penalize jurisdictions with similar policies has been stopped by the federal courts as unconstitutional overreach.

Learn more about the SCA and access our Organizer Toolkit: www.safecommunitiesact.com

Policy questions? Contact Amy Grunder at agrunder@miracoalition.org or (617) 350-5480, x222